

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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June 15, 2005

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From:

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Chief Administrative Office

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

## **State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)**

On June 14, 2005, the House approved, 231 to 195, an amendment offered by Representative Dreier (R-CA) to H.R. 2862, the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations bill, which increased SCAAP funding by \$50 million by reducing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Operations, Facilities, and Research funding. As amended, the bill funds SCAAP at \$405 million in FFY 2006, up from \$301 million in FFY 2005. The approval of the amendment is especially important because SCAAP never has been funded at a level higher than the House version. SCAAP has received far less support in the Senate because only a few states receive most of the funding. California alone receives about 40 percent of total SCAAP funding.

While SCAAP funding is supported by the entire California Congressional delegation, the amendment encountered opposition from Democrats who also support NOAA funding. The County's Washington advocates succeeded in securing "aye" votes from 12 of the 13 Democrats (all but Representative Watson) in the County's delegation. Only six of 20 Democrats who represent other parts of the State supported the Dreier amendment. All 20 Republican members in the State's delegation voted in favor of the amendment. The House is expected to complete floor action on H.R. 2862 on June 16, 2005.

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c: All Department Heads Legislative Strategist